



THE LEGION TIMES

Official Newspaper of The American Legion, Department of Texas

November 2011 • Volume 93, Issue 4



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Do you have an article or announcement for The Legion Times?

If so, please send all submissions to times@txlegion.org by the 20th of every month and it will appear in the following issue

Message from the Commander

Greetings to the Legion Family. We had a great Fall D.E.C! It was well prepared by our Department Adjutant Bill West and the facilitators were outstanding in their presentations. Thank you all for doing a great job. I was also glad to see that it was well attended and I want to also thank you. The commission meetings were very informative and we learned a lot.



The membership challenges that put were issued by the Division and District Commanders were very encouraging and I am looking forward for those challenges to flourish. Speaking about membership, we still have Posts that have not certified in the Department which means that members may want to pay their dues but these Posts do not have their cards available. I hope that the District Commanders will correct that situation immediately. Congratulations to all Blue Cappers, Post, District and Division Commanders who worked so hard to meet our first two target dates. Our next target date is October 28 (65%) and the one after that will be November 25th at 75%. Thank you for your dedication to our veterans. We can not sit back and relax because we met these target dates; we still have a long way to go to reach our goal.

Bill and I attended the Department Commanders and Adjutants conference at National Headquarters in Indianapolis recently. It was very interesting to meet the other department commanders and sharing what each department was doing in their state. But I tell you it was meeting after meeting all day long. We also attended our National Commander Fang A. Wang's homecoming. I do want to thank Vice-Commander Jim Fleming for going to El Paso to attend the 16th District Convention and the VA&R Hospital Tour.

(continued, p. 2)

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William West

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and submissions to:

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I attended the 14th District Convention in Floresville recently. It was a very well planned successful convention and well attended by the posts in that district. Third Division Commander Connie Jo Popham was also present as was Abram Zavala, Department Liaison for the Legion Riders and Department S.A.L Advisor John Schendel and 3rd Division Auxiliary President Bobbie Wesch. I do want to thank 14th District Walt Myers, his district staff, Post 38 Commander Richard Stapleton and Unit 38 Auxiliary President LaJuana Newnam-Leus and Auxiliary for their hospitality and comradeship to Frances and myself.

Auxiliary President Mary Waddell and I want to thank everyone that attended our joint homecoming. It was a very successful event and well attended. We especially want to thank Master and Mistress of Ceremonies Don Daft and Beth Bolton, Bobby and Betty Rohan, Glen Moody, Bea Trevino, Donna Brooks, Joan Swiatkowski, Twyla Greer, Marla Ebner, Shirley Rogers, Connie Harwell, my wife Frances and our families for their support, and hard work to make this event a memorable event. And last but not least Kim Palasota, Jennifer Compton and Gail Rideaux for the entertainment. What beautiful voices and poetry!

Again thank you all for your hard work and dedication to our veterans. Remember we need to make a difference today for tomorrow. God bless the American Legion Family and we pray that He will protect all our service people in harms way.

For God and Country,

Your Commander, J. G. (Lupe) Garza.

2011-2012 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

J. G. Garza, Department Commander
James Fleming, Department Vice Commander
Jim Prendergast, National Executive Committeeman
Paul Dillard, Alternate National Executive Committeeman
William West, Department Adjutant
Charles Edwards, Department Chaplain
Walter Ivie, Department Treasurer
Daniel Corbin, Department Judge Advocate
Cyndi Miller, Department Historian
Sandy Kousman, Department Sergeant-at-Arms
Terry Bigley, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Ken Mueller, Immediate Past Department Commander
Michael Simon, Director of Internal Affairs
Edward Reyes, Department Service Officer
Michael Lacy, Department Service Officer
Rebecca Hollingsworth, Department Service Officer
Donald Bridschge, Department Service Officer

DIVISION COMMANDERS

Linda Reed, 1st Division Commander
Ashton Thomas, 2nd Division Commander
Connie Jo Popham, 3rd Division Commander
W. L. Fleming, 4th Division Commander

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Jimmy Walker, 1st District Commander
Charles Denson, 2nd District Commander
Michael Croson, 3rd District Commander
Robert Bunch, 4th District Commander
Jeff Perkins, 5th District Commander
James Osborne, 6th District Commander
Everett Ison, 7th District Commander
Bryan Coleman, 8th District Commander
Glen Moody, 9th District Commander
Bill Moore, 10th District Commander
John Rogers, 11th District Commander
Alan Robart, 12th District Commander
James Carminati, 13th District Commander
Walt Myers, 14th District Commander
Noe Alvarado, 15th District Commander
Roger Folmar, 16th District Commander
Donald Douglas, 17th District Commander
Harold Lehnick, 18th District Commander
Bill Youngren, 19th District Commander
Fred Vasquez, 20th District Commander
Johnnie Washburn, 21st District Commander
Jerry Blaylock, 22nd District Commander
Robert Hester, 23rd District Commander

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Do you have an article or news announcement to share with the rest of the Department of Texas? If so, please follow these basic guidelines for submissions.

- Submit your text in Microsoft Word format (.doc) or as a text file (.txt or .rtf). **No ".docx" files please, as these are often problematic.** Save your file as the same name of the article, so we can easily keep track of it. And be sure to make it clear who the author is, whether it's you or if you are just forwarding it to us.
- **WE LOVE ARTICLES WITH PHOTOS**, or any other kind of images! Include photos and/or artwork for articles *separately* (NOT embedded in the article) as high resolution (300 dpi, or better) JPGs. Please name these files accordingly so we can track them along with

your article. Let us know in your e-mail of any corresponding captions, and/or name of the photographer if necessary.

- Spell check everything! Especially people's names, web addresses, etc. We do our best to catch typos, but sometimes they still slip by. You can help us greatly here by simply running your spell check function in your word processing program.

- **E-mail everything directly to us at times@txlegion.org by the 20th of every month for it to appear in the very next issue.** This way we have plenty of time to work with in case we need to clarify anything with you.

We hope you enjoy this issue, and hope you continue to help us grow The Legion Times!

Message from the Auxiliary President

Hello Legionnaires,

Commander Garza and I want to extend our heartfelt Thank You to each of you that were in attendance at our Homecoming in Rosenberg. A good time was had by all in attendance and the food was excellent.

Veterans Day celebrations are right around the corner. Veterans Day began as Armistice Day, which commemorated the armistice between Germany and the Allied Nations of World War I in 1918. This war was also known as "The Great Wars". "The Great War" - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. It was later changed to Remembrance Day and is now celebrated in the United States as Veterans Day on November 11 of each year. The original concept for the celebration was a day of remembrance and observance with parades, public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926

To us in America, the reflections of Veterans Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in our country's service and with gratitude for the freedom and peace we continue to live and enjoy today. We Salute You, We Honor You and Thank You for all you have done for our Country.

The American Legion Auxiliary invites each of you to join us during our official visits to our Veteran Affairs Medical Center hospital tours. You are also invited to join us in December at the Christmas gift shops and parties at each facility.

The American Legion Auxiliary would like to take this opportunity to wish Paula Raney, Department Secretary and her husband a farewell and well wishes. Paula has been an awesome pillar to the American Legion Auxiliary's operations and will be greatly and sincerely missed.

Celebrating Our Veterans and Freedom, by Honoring Their Service everyday.

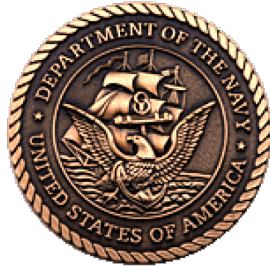
For God & Country,

Mary Waddell
Auxiliary President





Army



Navy



Marine Corps



Air Force

Front Side(s)



Reverse Side

Order on-line at **www.vetcoin.us**

The coin that honors all American Veterans

This commemorative coin should be in the hands of every American who ever donned the uniform and solemnly swore
“that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.....”

Who should own the Vetcoin?

The Vetcoin was designed to honor all American Veterans from all branches of service, both men and women, who served honorably in WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as stations, posts, bases and abroad ships around the world.

Perfect Memento

A perfect memento for reunions, special veteran events, relatives, friends or even strangers who have served honorably. A memento like this will be a family heirloom to be passed down from generation to generation.

Giving Back

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the Vetcoin will be used for scholarship awards to children and dependents of those veterans killed in action or permanently disabled.

About the coin

The inscription on the reverse side is encircled with a laurel wreath representing distinction and honor and joined together with a ribbon representing those who paid the supreme sacrifice. The five stars represent the five Armed Services of the United States.

If you prefer to order by phone or mail, call 405-842-6548 or write Vetcoin, PO Box 20303, Oklahoma City, OK 73156

The Vetcoin is not authorized or endorsed by any member of the Armed Forces or any other component of the Department of Defense

The American Legion Family Sweepstakes

The 1st Joint Legion Family Sweepstakes begins with the 2012 Midwinter Sweepstakes; tickets will be in your mailbox starting in the middle of November so watch for them. Tickets are \$3.00 per ticket or 12 chances for \$30.00 per member entry.

This is open to any member of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion to enter**, simply put your telephone number on your tickets and put them and your check in the return envelope provided.

The Grand Prize is \$10,000.00

2nd Prize - \$5000.00

3rd Prize - \$2500.00

4th Prize - \$1500.00

5th Prize - \$1000.00

6th & 7th Prize - \$500.00

8th - 13th Prize - \$100.00

Not only do you have a chance to WIN BIG but you can support your organization by participating, your organization will receive a portion of the proceeds to be used as the organization wishes.

If your household receives multiple envelopes, you can enter with each of them (Legion, Auxiliary & SAL), just return the proper return envelope to credit your organization (Legion - black ink, Auxiliary - red ink, SAL - green ink).

Winners will be drawn during the Joint Session of the January 2012 Midwinter Conference. Plan on attending the Midwinter Conference and be part of the excitement.

** All prizes are subject to Federal Tax withholding requirements. See official rules on the material enclosed with your tickets.*

***Employees and their immediate family members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion, Department of Texas are not eligible to participate in accordance with State and Federal Laws.*



VETERANS

OUTREACH/BENEFIT SEMINAR

SATURDAY, NOV. 19, 2011

9:00 am till NOON or till all have been counseled

AMERICAN LEGION POST 46

Wake Village, Texas

Location: Texas Elks Lodge#2771, 3702 New Boston Rd.
Texarkana, Texas

Representatives from the VA Regional Office in Waco, Texas, the Overton Brooks-VA Hospital Shreveport, LA., Texas Veterans Commission, which includes claims, education opportunities, and Veteran employment opportunities, Information from the Texas Veterans Land Board, Small Business Administration, Area Agency on Aging, The American Legion and other agencies offering services to OEF/OIF Veterans, will be on hand to discuss and help with any questions, claims, employment, and basic benefits.

Registration will start at 8:30 am, and all counseling will be on a “first come – first serve” basis. However, all wishing any form of counseling will receive help. All Veterans, spouses, or family members are encouraged to attend.

The Elks Lodge will be providing a free breakfast for all Veterans starting at 8 A.M.

For more information contact one of the following:

Ken Kunkel, 1st District Service Officer – 903-278-2931

Linda Ariaza, Commander Post 46 – 903-733-5953

Bobby Baker, Seminar Coordinator – 903-720-2316

A WORD ABOUT LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST



LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST

Over Four Decades of Partnership for a Healthy America

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) was formed in 1966 with two primary goals: to provide Legion families with low-cost insurance protection, and to provide a source of revenue to participating Legion Departments.

The Trust has been so successful in its forty-three years that today over 2,000,000 Legionnaires in 48 participating Departments are enrolled in this unique program.

Also, in the same period of time, hundreds of millions of dollars in claim benefits have been paid to Legionnaires and their families through the LIT; and over \$52 million in allocations have been paid to participating Legion Departments.

The first Trust insurance plan to be offered was the Hospital Income Protection plan, a program designed to pay fixed dollar amounts for periods of hospital confinement. Over the years, other insurance coverage offered included: Cancer, Accidental Death, Travel Accident, Critical Illness, Disability Income, Emergency Assistance, Long Term Care, Medicare Supplement, Discount Cards, Dental, Whole Life, Auto, Homeowners, Identity Theft, and Home Health Care.

Since its creation, AGIA has worked closely with the Trust to develop insurance programs especially designed for Department members and their families. We are proud to serve you through the Trust and invite your inquiries and suggestions on any aspect of our activities.

THE LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST (LIT)

Over Four Decades of Partnership for a Healthy America

Your Single Benefits Source for
All Department Insurance Plans

Do not buy Insurance until you learn about the
full range of high-value plans negotiated for you by the LIT!

LIT FAST FACTS:

- ★ Founded in 1966 to provide Legionnaires with high-quality insurance products at low group rates.
- ★ Serves 48 American Legion Departments.
- ★ Over 675,000 members enrolled.
- ★ As of 2010, paid over \$500,000,000 in claim benefits to Legionnaires and their families.
- ★ As of 2010, paid over \$55,000,000 in allocations back to participating Departments.
- ★ Your Department has its own representative called a Trust Director who actively oversees the workings of the LIT.
- ★ Managed and administered by A.G.I.A., Inc.

**For fast facts on any plan,
mail the postage-paid
INFORMATION REQUEST
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- Fill out the card on the back of the brochure and mark the boxes to get more information on any of these products.
- Then drop the card in the mail — the postage is already paid! Or if you'd rather, call us at our toll-free number — 1-800-235-6943 or go online at www.theLIT.com

*Product specifications and availability vary by state. Specific information on all benefits and exclusions will be mailed to you along with eligibility details.

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ALL-PRODUCTS
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1-800-445-3269**

FEATURED PLANS:*

- ★ **Emergency Assistance Plus** — 24-hour emergency and medical back-up plan to help Legionnaires handle almost any crisis away from home that health insurance usually will NOT cover. This includes Medical Evacuation, Medical Assistance, Travel Assistance, and Assistance for Companions.
- ★ **Hospital Indemnity** — Pays Legionnaires for hospitalization resulting from a covered injury or illness. Benefits help pay for the expenses not covered by primary insurance.
- ★ **Cancer Care** — Pays Legionnaires benefits for the treatment of cancer, including coverage for hospital room and board, chemotherapy, drugs and medicine, radiation therapy, nursing care, surgery, and much more.
- ★ **Travel Accident** — Pays death benefit for travel-related accidents. Also pays a daily benefit for hospitalization resulting from a travel-related accident.
- ★ **Accident Protection** — Pays benefits for covered accidents. You get round-the-clock protection — 24 hours a day, anywhere in the world.
- ★ **Medicare Supplement** — Pays Legionnaires age 65 and over benefits to supplement what Medicare doesn't cover, such as deductibles and co-payments.
- ★ **LifeLock** — LifeLock, the leader in identity theft protection, helps protect Legionnaires' identity — even if your information falls into the wrong hands. As a LifeLock member, if you become a victim of identity theft because of a failure in LifeLock's service, they'll help you fix it at their expense, up to \$1,000,000.
- ★ **Long Term Care** — Pays cash benefits for nursing and/or home health care. Benefits pay for skilled, intermediate or custodial care in a nursing home.
- ★ **Auto and Homeowners** — Valuable automobile coverage for all your vehicles. Choose liability limits, and receive discounts for a safe driving record, low mileage, multiple vehicle coverage, and for being over age 50.

Government - Boys State Style

June 5th through June 11th, 2010. The week not only defined my summer, but it changed my outlook on people, government, and leadership. The Texas American Legion Boys State convened in Austin, Texas. By design, it educates the youth of Texas about politics and the governmental system of America. Beyond those foundational objectives, personally, it also helped fortify my ability to lead, while teaching me to interact more fluidly within a group, as well as solidifying the importance of a diligent mind set towards both my schooling and my community.

On Saturday, June 5th, I, along with other campers from the Metroplex, stepped off of a charter bus, and onto the University of Texas at Austin campus. Without a doubt, the primary feeling swirling through my body was a sense of apprehension. I have always been interested in government and the political system, but Boys State is a gathering of one thousand of the brightest high-school juniors in Texas. Bruce Walker, Director of Admissions at UT, gave Boys State the correct definition by calling it, “a civics reality show,” and this would prove to be an understatement! I interacted with academic geniuses, musical prodigies, political powerhouses, amazing athletes and even one Marxist who practices tai chi. Coming from a small private school, in an equally small town, I could not have been prepared myself for the diversity of the people I met, but I must assert that I loved every minute of it. Even when I thought I could not experience any more, I met two young men studying to become Catholic priests, along with a Buddhist Transcendentalist, the latter of whom was in the Boys State choir with me. The exposure of cultures and lifestyles was a refreshing change of pace, but the real clincher about this week for me was our immersion into a pseudo-government system.

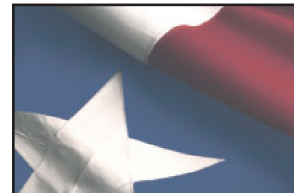
Upon arrival, all 1,000 of us separated into two parties, nationalist and federalist. Then, we campaigned for offices on the city, county, district and state levels, with positions ranging from county sheriff to governor. I was elected to the roles of county and state party delegate, a post that proved to be an application in time-management skills, because before a vote was passed, we were required to confer with the districts we represented and acquire their sentiments regarding the issue that was currently up for a vote. I was also elected to the platform committee, which primarily contributed to the formation of party policy. Many hot-button issues such as abortion, gay marriage, gun control, the party’s stance on energy and its position on the legalization of marijuana came up for debate. Often times, we would still be debating by the time we met for dinner and on through the evening’s general assembly. The week ended with a parade in the streets of Austin leading to the Texas Capitol, a presentation by the Boys State choir, and a final address to the members.

At week’s end as I boarded the same charter bus to leave, I immediately noticed something different; the once-silent bus was now alive with chatter. Boys State had formed in us a bond, a unifying factor that allowed everyone in that vehicle to be comfortable around the other boys. In a week, the blink of an eye to our universe, we were given vital tools for our future that would aid us through our final year of high school, into the next level of education and, surely, beyond. It was exactly as our state party secretary Chris Casanova stated: “We came to this camp as mere boys, but we have departed as men!”



The Legion Times
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From The American Legion,
Department of Texas

Department Sponsored Insurance Programs

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been The Department of Texas's sponsored member benefits program for 7 years and continues to fulfill our members needs while being the only such program to benefit our Department.

For more information on the products and services provided by the Legionnaire Insurance Trust,

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